

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Application No.: 09/834,944

Attorney Docket No.: Q64103

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 15. (cancelled)

16. (new): A literary work distribution network system, comprising:

one or more customer terminal apparatuses;

a management terminal apparatus for

enciphering and selling a right of use of a literary work to a customer through a communication circuit,

enciphering and transmitting use right frequency information for limitation of at least one of the number of times of use, the hour of use and the amount of use of the literary work to one of said customer terminal apparatuses, and

imposing a royalty for the literary work through the communication circuit in accordance with the number of times indicated by the use right frequency information; and

a literary work provider terminal apparatus for enciphering and distributing the literary work to a customer through the communication circuit;

wherein each of said one or more customer terminal apparatuses comprise:

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a storage section for storing enciphered literary work data distributed thereto from said literary work provider terminal apparatus,

deciphering means for deciphering the enciphered literary work data and right of use of the literary work data stored in said storage section, and

a playback circuit for playing back the deciphered literary work data;

wherein said deciphering means comprises a use right frequency information storage memory provided therein for storing the use right frequency information deciphered by said deciphering means in such a manner that the deciphered use right frequency information cannot be referred to from the outside; and

wherein said deciphering means refers to the use right frequency information stored in said use right frequency information storage memory to read out the enciphered literary work data from said storage section and signals the read out literary work data to said playback circuit.

17. (new): A literary work distribution network system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said deciphering means updates the use right frequency information stored in said use right frequency information storage memory in response to the number of times of playback by said playback circuit.

18. (new): A literary work distribution network system as claimed in claim 17, wherein each of said one or more customer terminal apparatuses operates in response to the use right frequency stored in said use right frequency information storage memory such that, when the use

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right frequency is higher than "0", the enciphered literary work data stored in said storage section can be read out and deciphered by means of said deciphering means and then the deciphered literary work data can be signaled to and played back by said playback circuit, but when the use right frequency is "0", the decipherment by said deciphering means is not performed and the enciphered literary work data cannot be played back.

19. (new): A literary work distribution network system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the literary work is music data.

20. (new): A recording medium on which a control program for causing a computer to implement the functions of the literary work distribution network system as claimed in claim 16 is recorded.